

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Mary Shirah for her service to Northwest Florida. Mary has worked tirelessly on behalf of the women of Santa Rosa County for the last 15 years. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for her and her family, including sons Henry, Richard, and John, and her six grandchildren, as they embark on this next journey in their lives.

IN MEMORY OF MR. MICHAEL J.
BONASERA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. Michael J. Bonasera of Warren, Ohio.

Michael J. Bonasera Sr. was born April 13, 1915 in Buffington, Pa., the son of Pasquale and Ninfa Danca Bonasera.

Michael was a 1934 graduate of Hickory High School and came to Warren in 1942 from Sharon, Pa., where he had lived since 1920.

He was a veteran of WWII, having served in the Army Transportation Corps., and attaining the rank of Sergeant. His military service included tours of duty in England and the Philippines.

Michael retired in 1980 from American Welding, where he was a machine operator for 32 years. He was an award-winning machinist, and was one of the first machinists to machine parts for jet and rocket engines. He was a great teacher and was able to pass on his vast knowledge to future generations of machinists.

He was a member of St. Mary's Church, and enjoyed traveling, golf, tending to his garden, and music, and had taught accordion lessons for 45 years. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Lena R. Maggiano Bonasera, whom he married Oct. 10, 1942; a daughter, Janet M. (Charles) Richards of Warren; two sons, Michael J. (Susan) Bonasera Jr. of Seattle and Atty. Thomas J. (Julie) Bonasera of Columbus; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a son-in-law, Dan Matthews of Coos Bay, Ore.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Lee Matthews; a brother, Charles Bonasera; and his sisters, Constance LaMagro, Grace Ciolfi, Sunda Sebastian, Josephine Roman, Rose Russo and Mary Welch.

Calling hours were yesterday from 4 to 7 p.m. and this morning from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel.

Burial will be at All Souls Cemetery.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 26210 Emery Road, Suite 307, Cleveland, OH 44128.

EFFINGHAM ST. ANTHONY STATE
GOLF CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a talented group of student-athletes from Effingham, Illinois.

The Effingham St. Anthony boys golf team took state championship honors this month at the Illinois High School Association's finals at Prairie Vista Golf Course in Bloomington. The squad entered the final day tied with a competitive Mt. Carmel team, but St. Anthony's jumped out to an early lead in the final round and held on to clinch the title.

I want to congratulate Coach Phil Zaccari for his work with the team. But most of all, I want to congratulate the 2009 state champion boys golf squad from Effingham St. Anthony: Michael McHugh, Michael Koester, Derek Rohlfing, Kit Koerner, Lewis Martin and James Jansen. They have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing them continued success in their athletic and academic endeavors.

CONGREGATION BEIT KODESH

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Congregation Beit Kodesh, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In 1958, a small number of intuitive individuals started hosting Shabbat services at the Clarenceville Central Elementary School. This same year, over 200 people attended High Holiday services at the Botsford Inn in Farmington. The following year, the Livonia Jewish Congregation was formally organized. Over the next few years, the Congregation met at several different locations until negotiation with the Jewish Welfare Foundation allowed them to move into the May and Samuel Cohn Building.

Importantly, the Congregation has been served by three Rabbis over the years: Rabbi Nathaniel Steinberg (one year), Rabbi Martin Gordon (twenty-two years) and Rabbi Craig Allen (seven years). When no Rabbi is available, the lay people of the congregation carry out services. Currently, Rabbi Jason Miller, the associate director of the University of Michigan Hillel Foundation in Ann Arbor, is the Rabbinic Advisor.

In 1990, the congregation officially changed its name to Congregation Beit Kodesh in order to recognize members who live throughout the Tri-County area. Two years ago, they combined efforts with Bet Chaverim and began to hold Sunday School classes and activities together at Congregation Beit Kodesh. Notably, students play an important role in these congregations. For example, students attend regular Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes and volunteer at Yad Ezra. In addition, they contribute actively in the community by participating in

the Matzos Factory at the Junior Community College, the annual Penny Harvest, and assisting the elderly with various projects. Finally, the synagogue also has an active Sisterhood, which sends relief packages to our soldiers and seeks to advance tolerance in the community.

In addition to being the only conservative synagogue in Western Wayne County, this distinguished congregation was the first in Metropolitan Detroit to elect a woman as president. While receiving very little financial assistance or recognition from the Jewish community, they remain very active and play an important role in the community.

Madam Speaker, for fifty years, Congregation Beit Kodesh has stood as a tribute to the strong efforts of Metropolitan Detroit's Jewish community. As their members commemorate this tremendous milestone, they embody a legacy of distinction and determination. While observing their Jewish customs, this small but significant family synagogue will continue to contribute to the community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Congregation Beit Kodesh and recognizing their contributions to our community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Friday morning, October 23, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the eleven votes which occurred Friday, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3619, rollcall vote No. 812; and I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3619, rollcall vote No. 813.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DON
WEEKS

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, residents of New York's Capital Region have been blessed to wake up each morning to the voice of long-time radio host Don Weeks. Since 1980, Don has hosted the WGY morning radio show, entertaining listeners with a mix of comedy and insightful interviews, all delivered with a friendly, neighborly charm.

Throughout the years Don has always put the community first, lending his talent to local fund drives and other special events, from restocking food pantries to emceeding the annual Red Cross Hometown Heroes Awards breakfast. He has been honored with several New York State Broadcaster of the Year awards, and a Marconi Award from the National Association of Broadcasters.

We'd like to congratulate Don on the recent announcement that he will be inducted into the New York State Broadcasting Hall of Fame. It is a fitting honor for a lifelong Capital Region resident who has dedicated his life to informing and entertaining others, and making our community a better place in which to live.